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Collapsible bag holder**

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ABSTRACT

A collapsible/foldable bag holder comprising a hinge which includes a fixed hinge part adapted to be mounted to a structure, the fixed hinge part and a relatively moveable hinge part, a pair of elongate arms projecting from the movable hinge part transversely of the axis of the hinge, the arms being fitted with means for securing upper extremities of a bag so as to hold a mouth of the bag in an open orientation when mounted on the arms, locking means for restraining the moveable hinge part and associated arms in a generally horizontal plane whereby release of the locking means enables the arms to pivot about the axis of the hinge about the fixed hinge part for movement into a non-use position such that the arms fold downwardly under gravitational force and rest in a vertical orientation.

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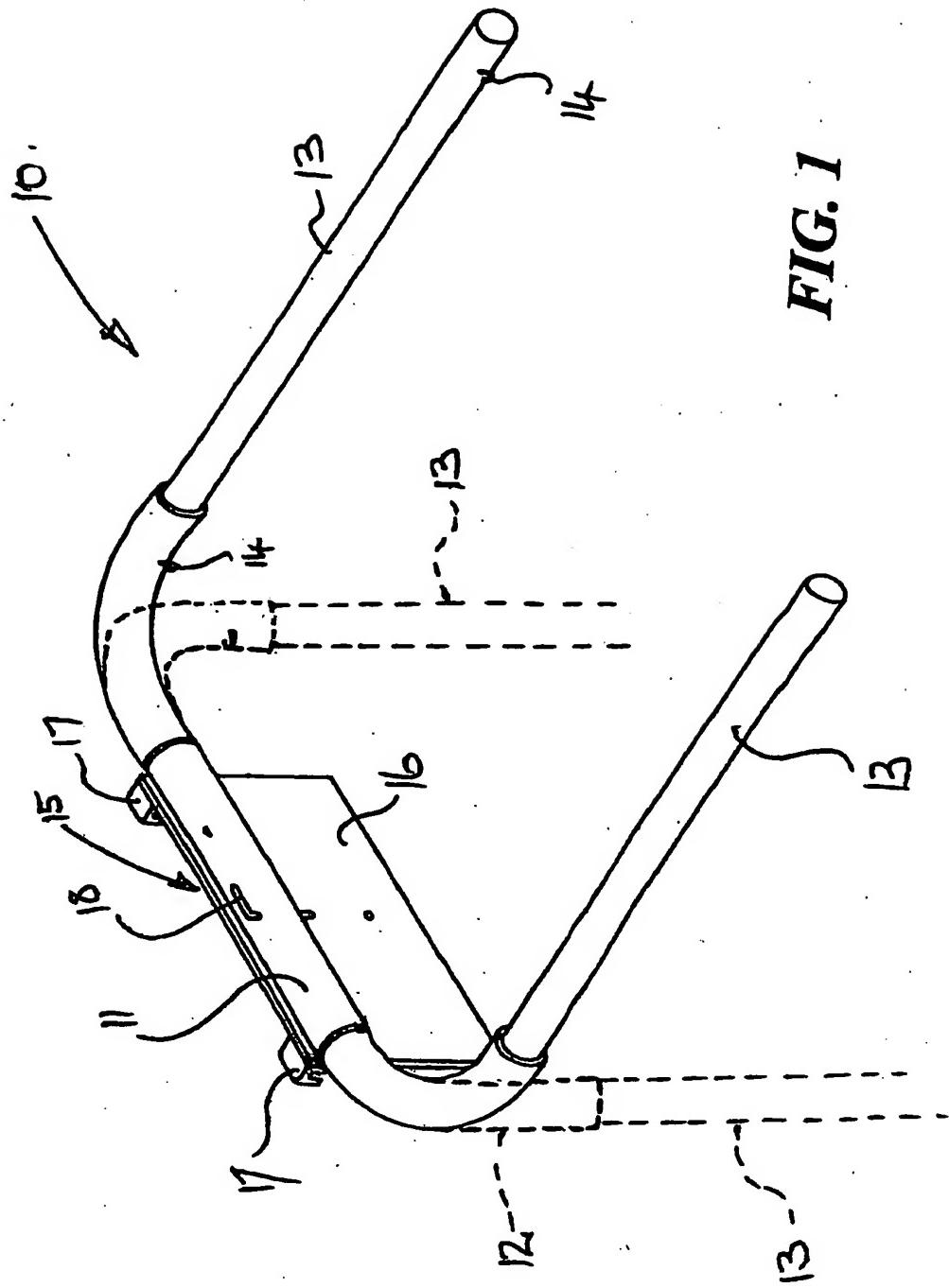


FIG. 1

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Regulation 3:2

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ORIGINAL
COMPLETE SPECIFICATION
STANDARD PATENT

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Invention Title: Collapsible bag holder

The following statement is a full description of this invention, including the best method of performing it known to me:-

COLLAPSIBLE BAG HOLDER

The present invention relates to bag holders and more particularly to collapsible bag holders which are readily portable for use at a plurality of different locations.

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It is highly desirable in numerous fields to have a collapsible or foldable bag holder for supporting a bag at a location which leaves an operator's hands free to fill the bag through its open mouth, which is held that way by the bag holder. It is also often highly desirable to have a bag holder which can be moved so as to avoid the creation of an obstruction for

- 10 the free passage of people and goods when the holder is not supporting a bag.

One example of an environment suited to collapsible bag holders would be in a mail collection van and at mail sorting hubs. In one example, a mail sorting van contains a wire mesh "carton" or cage which stores empty mail bags ready for removal and use when

- 15 clearing mail from mail boxes at a plurality of collection sites. An embodiment of the present invention provides a readily useable bag holder which can be hooked to the wire mesh of the cage or carton and then readily deployed to enable fitment of an empty mail bag removed from within the cage or carton.

- 20 Throughout this description and the claims which follow, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise", or variations such as "comprises" or "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or step or group of integers or steps but not the exclusion of any other integer or step or group of integers or steps.

- 25 The reference to any prior art in this specification is not, and should not be taken as, an acknowledgment or any form of suggestion that that prior art forms part of the common general knowledge in Australia.

- According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a collapsible/foldable
30 bag holder comprising a hinge which includes a fixed hinge part adapted to be mounted to a structure, and a relatively moveable hinge part, a pair of elongate arms projecting from

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the movable hinge part transversely of the axis of the hinge, the arms being fitted with means for securing upper extremities of a bag so as to hold a mouth of the bag in an open orientation when mounted on the arms, locking means for restraining the moveable hinge part and associated arms in an in-use position in which the arms project from structure 5 whereby release of the locking means enables the arms to pivot about the axis of the hinge about the fixed hinge part for movement into a non-use position.

Preferably, the arms are disposed in a generally upright configuration when in non-use position and generally horizontally when in the in-use position. When the locking means 10 is released the arms may be adapted to move downwardly under the influence of gravity to the non-position.

Preferably, the fixed hinge part is releasably securable to a structure for periodic mounting in a plurality of locations.

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Preferably, the means for securing upper extremities of a bag are hooks.

The fixed hinge part may comprise moment-resisting means and inverted U-shaped mounting means. Preferably, the moment-resisting means includes a backing plate.

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The locking means may include a shear pin which is adapted to pass through aligned bores in fixed hinge part and moveable hinge part.

A preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be described by way of example 25 with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of a collapsible bag holder in accord with the present invention shown in its extended orientation in solid line and in its collapsed or inoperative position in dashed lines;

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Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the holder of Fig. 1 in its operative position on the side of a

meshed cage with a bag in position;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of Fig. 2; and

- 5 Fig. 4 is a front elevation view of Fig. 1.

In the drawings there is shown a collapsible bag holder 10 formed with a fixed hinge part 11 having a relatively rotatable hinge part 12 passing therethrough. Part 12 extends into a pair of arms 13 which are formed with bag holding hooks 14.

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Fixed hinge part 11 is connected to a supporting bracket 15 comprised of a backboard 16 and mounting hooks 17.

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Arms 13 are retained in the horizontal orientation by means of a shear pin 18 which passes through aligned bores in fixed hinged part 11 and moveable hinge part 12. Removal of pin 18 allows arms 13 and moveable hinge part 12 to rotate so that arms 13 pivot downwardly to the inoperative position as shown in dashed lines in Figs. 1 and 4.

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In Fig. 2 hooks 17 are shown fitted to a horizontal bar 19 of wire mesh cage 20 while backboard 16 projects downwardly and rests against further horizontal rods or bars parallel to rod 19.

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In a preferred mode of operation removal and replacement of bag 21 is readily achieved. Where replacement bags are stored in mesh cage 20 an operator need only reach into the cage 20 by walking into the space between arms 13 as shown in Fig. 3 and then reach into the interior of the cage to pull out a replacement empty bag which is hooked up to the arms 13 as the operator steps rearwardly out of the space between arms 13.

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It will be understood that other variations and modifications to the present invention will become apparent. All such variations and modifications should be considered to fall within the spirit and scope of the invention as broadly hereinbefore described.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS :

1. A collapsible/foldable bag holder comprising a hinge which includes a fixed hinge part adapted to be mounted to a structure, and a relatively moveable hinge part, a pair of 5 elongate arms projecting from the movable hinge part transversely of the axis of the hinge, the arms being fitted with means for securing upper extremities of a bag so as to hold a mouth of the bag in an open orientation when mounted on the arms, locking means for restraining the moveable hinge part and associated arms in an in-use position in which the arms project from structure whereby release of the locking means enables the arms to pivot 10 about the axis of the hinge about the fixed hinge part for movement into a non-use position.

2. A bag holder according to claim 1 wherein the arms are disposed in a generally upright configuration when in the non-use position and generally horizontally when in the 15 in-use position.

3. A bag holder according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein when the locking means is released the arms move downwardly under the influence of gravity to the non-use position.

- 20 4. A bag holder according to any preceding claim wherein the fixed hinge part is releasably securable to a structure for periodic mounting in a plurality of locations.

5. A bag holder according to any preceding claim wherein the means for securing upper extremities of a bag are hooks.

- 25 6. A bag holder according to any preceding claim wherein the fixed hinge part comprises moment-resisting means and inverted U-shaped mounting means.

7. A bag holder according to the preceding claims wherein the locking means includes 30 a shear pin which is adapted to pass through aligned bores in fixed hinge part and moveable hinge part.

- 5 -

8. A bag holder according to claim 7 wherein the moment-resisting means includes a backing plate.
 9. A bag holder substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
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Dated this 29th day of November, 2001

MANLIO PRATELLI

10 By Its Patent Attorneys

DAVIES COLLISON CAVE

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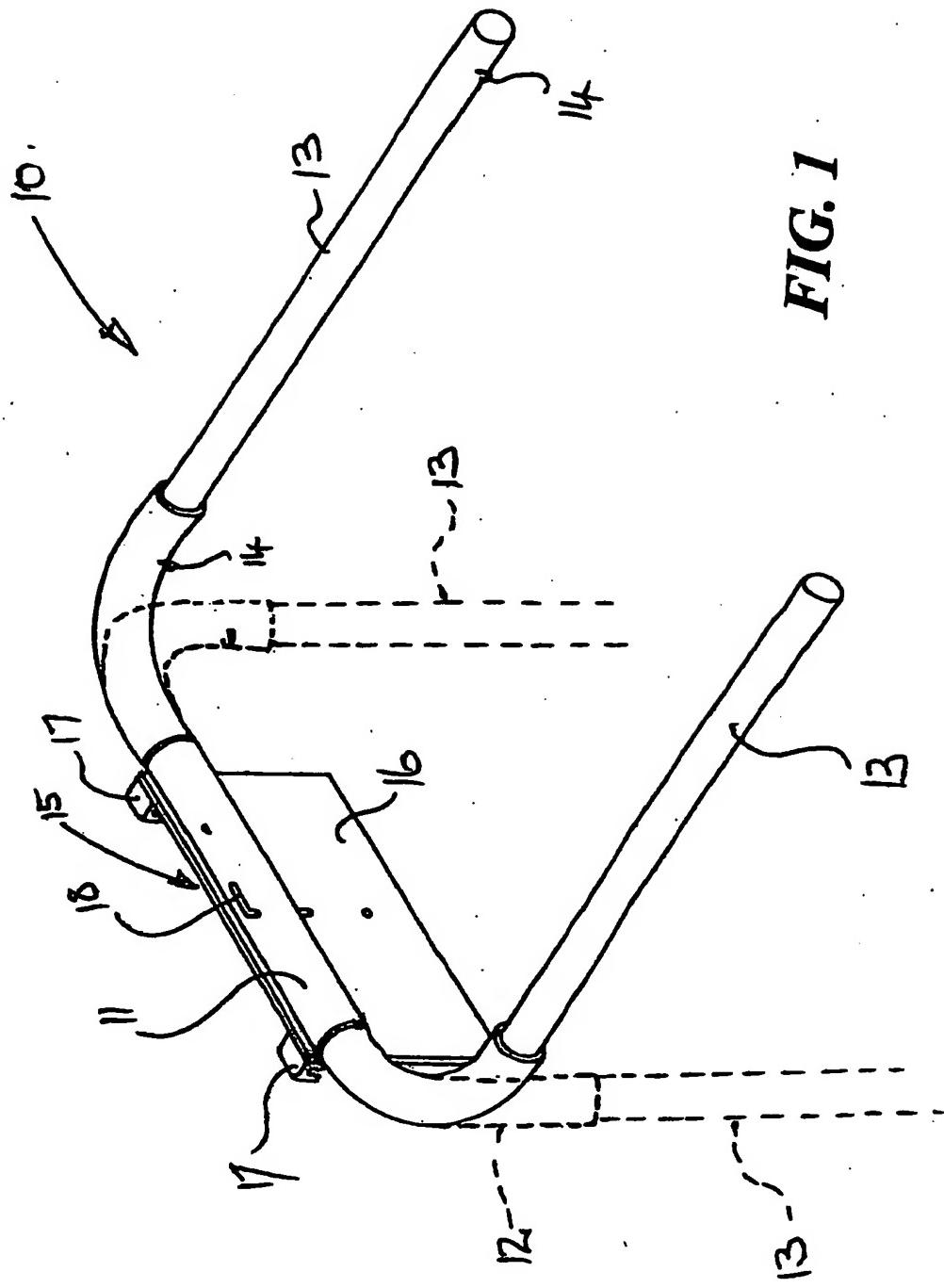
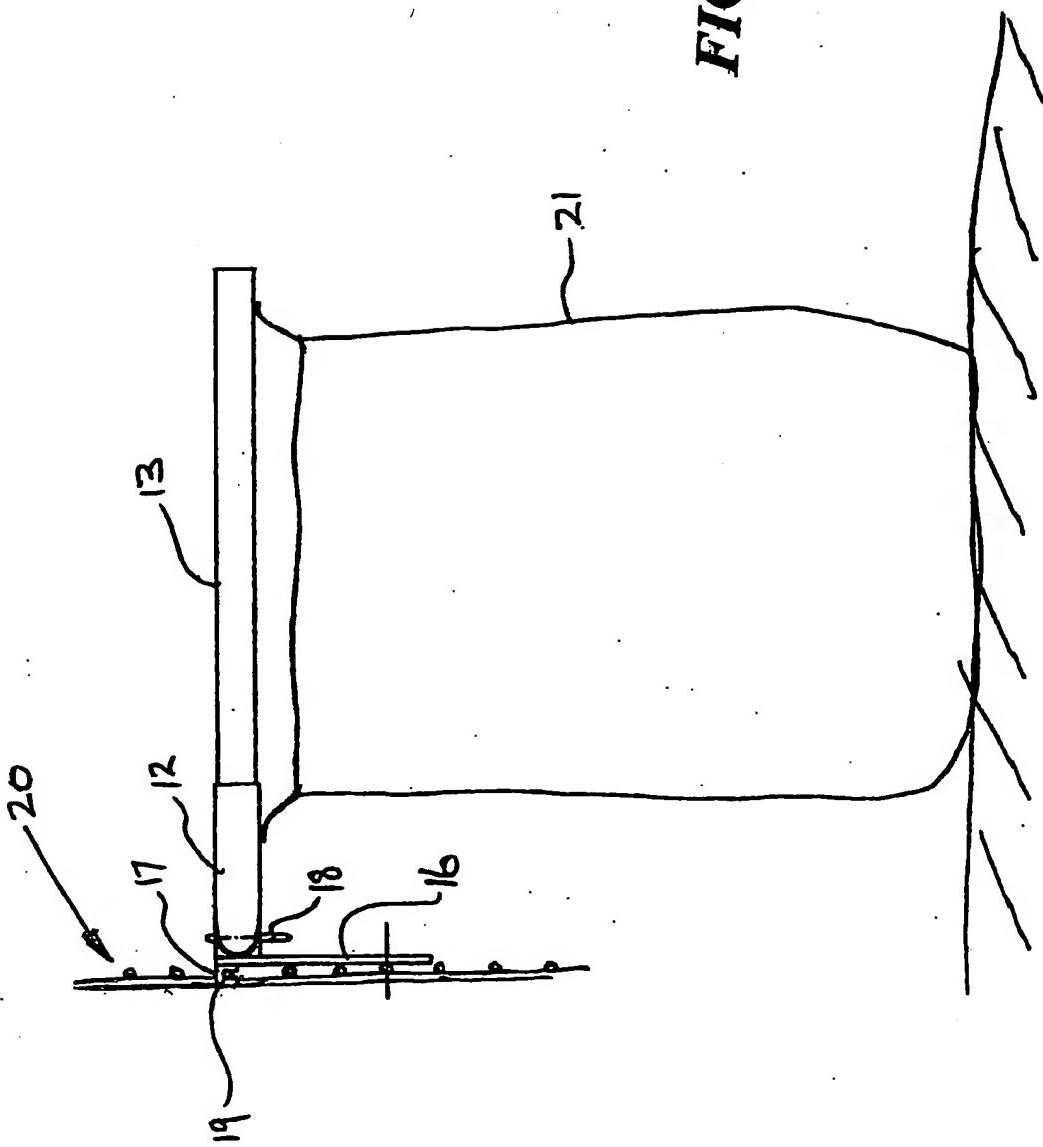


FIG. 1

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FIG. 2



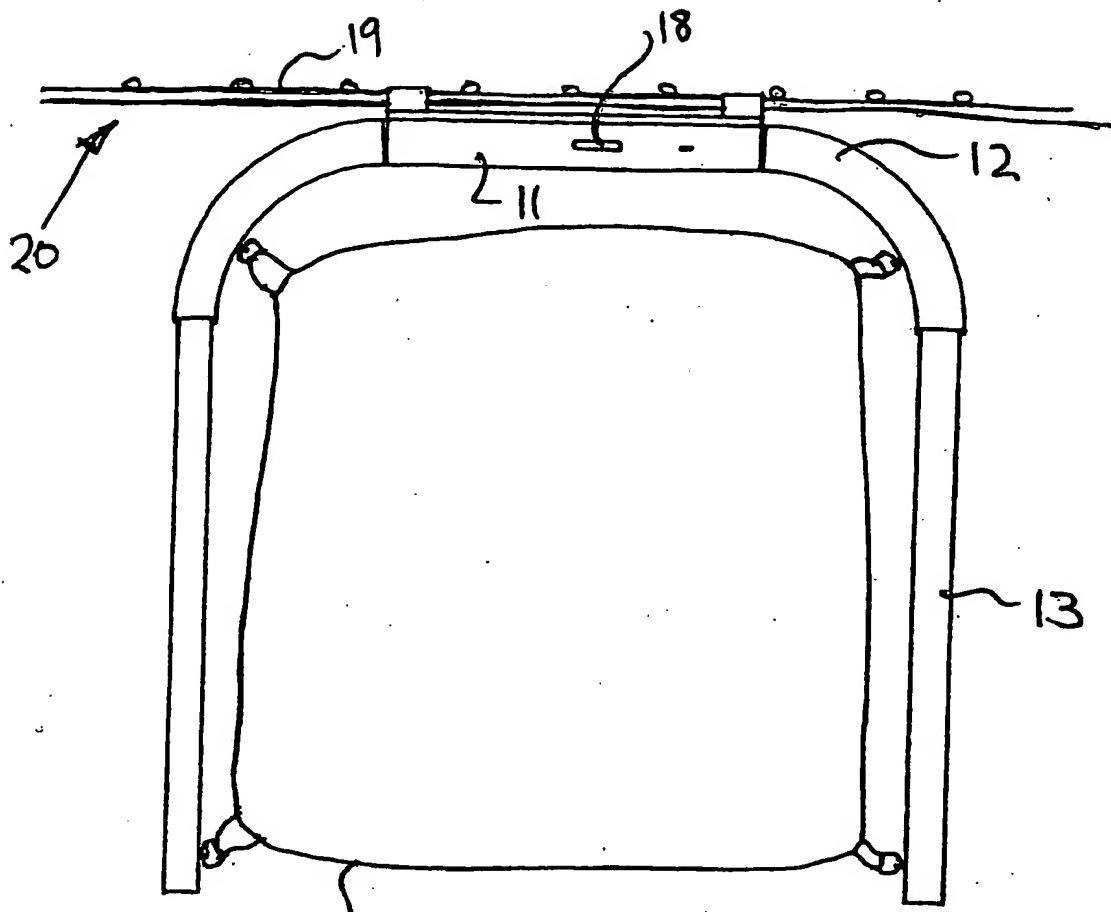


FIG. 3

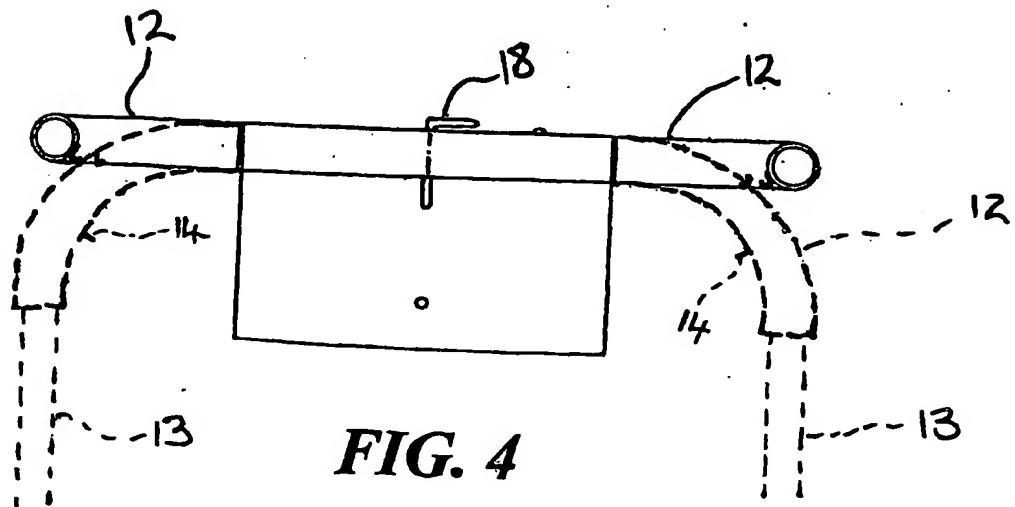


FIG. 4

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